

# Hint Massive Air Strike To Avenge the Bombing

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By JOSEPH FRIED

Staff Correspondent of The News

Saigon, March 30—A staggering aerial blow against North Viet Nam in retaliation for today's bombing of the U.S. Embassy is expected, possibly tomorrow. It was speculated that the target would be more significant than those hit to date.

Eleven U.S. jets and 24 South Viet Nam Skyraiders "completely destroyed" the Dong Hoi air base, 65 miles across the border in North Viet Nam today. But American officials said the strike had already been scheduled, and was not in reprisal for the embassy bombing.

U. S. authorities were warned almost seven weeks ago of Viet Cong plans to blow up American installations in Saigon in reprisal for U. S. air strikes on North Viet Nam.

## Death Toll at 13

The disclosure came as the death toll in the embassy bombing rose to 13, including two Americans. There were 203 persons injured, among them 54 Americans. Forty two of the injured, including seven Americans, were reported in serious condition.

Among the wounded were John P. Condon, whose father, George Condon, lives at 215 E. 31st St., New York, and Herbert Weiss-hart, whose aunt, Mrs. Sally Walpin, lives at 5 Fredor City Place, New York.

One of the dead Americans was identified as Barbara Robbins, 21, an embassy secretary from Denver. She joined the State Department in July, 1963, after studying two years at Colorado State University. The other American killed was a Navy petty officer.

(In Denver, Miss Robbins' father, Buford M. Robbins, a meat cutter, said: "My daughter said very little about the situation (in Viet Nam). She said she liked her job. She said it was a fascinating job in a fascinating part of the world." Miss Robbins went to Viet Nam last August. "She requested overseas duty," Robbins said. "I don't know if she had requested a particular area.")

## Warning Brushed Off

Embassy officials had been warned that the terrorists might use motor scooters like the one used in today's bombing. Apparently they did not take the warning seriously, since only one marine and six Viet Nam policemen stood guard at the embassy.

American authorities admitted receiving such a warning, but they said that



Dong Hoi military base was blasted by fighter bombers.



(Associated Press Wirefoto)  
Barbara Robbins, 21, of Denver, died in Viet Cong bombing of U. S. Embassy.

Cong plans, some of them conflicting, were regularly received.

The embassy had been given a detailed report of the plot by Viet Nam authorities, whose double agent had penetrated the capital's Viet Cong cell in February, it was learned.

## Terrorist Killed, 2d Captured

There were 85 Americans in the embassy at the time of the blast, 10:50 A. M. (9:50 P. M. Monday New York time). The most serious wounded were airlifted to Clark Air Force Base in the Philippines. Deputy U. S. Ambassador U. Alexis Johnson suffered forehead and chin cuts.

One of the two Viet Cong terrorists pulling off the blast was killed and the other was captured.

A U. S. spokesman, detailing the bombing, said that at 10:46 A. a small French-made auto pulled up at the embassy in a side street. The driver left the car, feigning engine trouble, but was ordered to drive on by a Viet Nam guard.

The driver whipped out a gun and shot the policeman. Another man raced up on a motor scooter. He whipped out a pistol and fired at the already wounded guard, who returned the fire. His bullets hit the car's driver before the driver could hop aboard the scooter. Then the guard collapsed.

Seconds later, the guard and the wounded Viet Cong agent were blown to bits as 200 to 250 pounds of TNT in the car exploded.

A mobile cop pursued the scooter and wounded and captured the driver. He was identified as a carpenter, 33 years old, who said he was paid the equivalent of \$100 by the Viet Cong to drive the getaway scooter.

While an American spokesman hedged at a press conference, a Viet Nam government spokesman, Nguyen Ngoc Linh, said the bombing was on direct orders from Hanoi. Linh said the time lag between the start of U.S. air strikes on North Viet Nam and the Viet Cong attack here was due to communications difficulties between Hanoi and the Cong's Saigon cell.